

McDonald's features little known black history facts

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NEW JERSEY

Residents and leaders gather in Newark to discuss state's execution of early childhood education

By Jean H. Pierre
Staff Writer

NEWARK—You've heard the old saying "Without an education a man is nothing" or "education is the key to opportunity." Well, that rang true as educational, religious, and community leaders gathered at Morning Star Baptist Church in Newark to discuss the state's implementation of early childhood education.

Assemblyman Craig Stanley (D-28th Dist.) and several educators from around state addressed the packed audience the decision recently handed down by the state supreme court which will reform various aspects of education for students in districts such as Newark and Irvington.

"We are at a point where we are very, very close to winning one of the greatest battles of modern day history. And that is for a thorough education for students

no matter what background a student has," said Assemblyman Stanley. "We've got to be tough, because these people are going to be tough with us. If we do the right thing and heed the call of people in the state we can rebuild our schools and the system."

"The decision, known as Abbott v. Burke, would require the Department of Education to implement the programs that were found to be effective in raising student achievement levels such as reduced class sizes, full-day kindergarten rather than a half-day and renovation and reconstruction of education facilities within five years."

However, the state has resisted proceeding with the plan feeling it would be costly to set-up, which would leave more than 40 percent of students in minority districts without as solid an education as their white counterparts. "We want the same thing

as her (Gov. Christie Whitman's) children. A quality education," said Anna Taliaferro, president of the Parent Coordinators of New Jersey. "We must be heard, we must voice and we must be vigilant to get this done."

The panel also discussed the importance parents must play in the fight for their child's education. "When are going to talk about our children needs. We know can't expect anything from Gov. Whitman. She's not giving us anything," said Lisa Clark, head of the Irvington Parent Teacher Association, who has two children in the Irvington School System. "Now is the time, now is the place. If we have to take this to hill so be it. I got my climbing shoes and rope. If you need a hand, I'll pull up."

Kabili Tayari, Chairman of the Education Task Force for the Newark Black Issues Convention, talked not only of the parents involvement, but also the

political involvement. "It cannot be just Craig Stanley, it's all the black and Latino politicians of any party or district stand up consistently for this issue," said Tayari. "We need to call them (state officials) to the table, because all of us is in the room are parents. Every elected official should announce where they stand."

"It's a political issue Politics acknowledge to political power. You won't see this in Short Hills. Only here," said Assemblyman William Payne (D-29th Dist.), referring to the political force the minority community has. "You can't be effective in the polling place if you're not registered. Every single person must participate in the voting process. Things will get done."

The Whitman Administration or the Department of Education has no comment on their delay to move ahead with the plan, but for Chris Hinton, parent



New Jersey Black Issues Convention Educational Task Force Chairman Kabil Tayari, Assemblyman Craig Stanley, Montclair NAACP President James Harris and Parent Coordinators President Anna Tagliaferro discuss the Abbott issue of a student in the Abbott district, he wants action now. "These are our kids. The year 2000 is approaching quickly. I'm willing to stand and do battle for my kids at all cost."

In Newark, Sharpton champions black heritage, Christian faith, and anti-brutality legislation

By Carl Chase
Staff Writer

NEWARK—The killing of 22-year-old Amadou Diallo by New York police confirms the dire need to re-examine the African-American heritage during African-American history month, the Rev. Al Sharpton during a visit to New Hope Baptist Church on Sunday.

Hours before a mournful trans-Atlantic flight to Africa for Amadou Diallo's burial in his native Guinea, Sharpton preached about the power of faith in God to ease the torment of life's injustices, while renewing a call for federal action toward laws to curb police brutality.

But the purpose of his appearance as guest preacher was to celebrate Black America's record of overcoming the hostility of a racist society. "A hundred years ago we had no rights that anybody had to respect," he preached to hundreds of worshippers in the New Hope Baptist Church.

"It was against the law to name your own child after you. But we went from the back of the bus to the front of City Hall," he continued, receiving spirited responses in return from the 8 a.m. assembly.

But on a heavier note, he said the tragedy in New York City indicates a loss of Civil Rights that urgently require attention.

"Tonight I'm going to Africa to bury the remains of this young man with his family," he said of the Diallos. "I told them this is a historic trip for me because 300 years ago, Guinea, some of our people were sold into slavery."

Sharpton said Diallo's experience in New York implies that true freedom still eludes black people in America. Diallo was killed when four policemen fired 41 shots at the unarmed immigrant, striking him 19 times, igniting various expressions of outrage and sorrow throughout New York City, from Guinean community leaders, the Nation of Islam and a leader of One Hundred Blacks in Law Enforcement Who Care.

Sharpton said the last two weeks have had a similar impact on black people everywhere. "Certainly, if there is a time when we need to serve God and praise God, it's now," he said.

He said in an interview at the church several hours before the flight to Africa that the tragedy had made it more necessary for him to be in New Jersey that day, for an appearance that was arranged in December. "Although we've made great progress this century," this death was a wake-up call that the struggle continues."

He said it was only the latest of "expressions of state-sponsored racism" in a rash of police brutality cases across the country. "I say state-sponsored not only because they work for the state, but because the state will not do anything about it."

New Hope's pastor, the Rev. Joe Carter, said anger over the incident shows up in the community of the Sussex Street church. "People are angry that this innocent man could be murdered in cold blood," he said. "It makes you wonder how far we have come since the original Civil Rights legislation."

Sharpton emphasized that conscientious people must obtain positive action from the laws of tragic injustice. "If Rosa Parks hadn't been arrested, we wouldn't have ended up stopping segregation because of a movement that emanated from it. Out of this, we should continue to mobilize until there is national legislation on police brutality."

Accordingly, Sharpton and Diallo's mother and father, Kadiadou and Saikou Diallo, led a motorcade from Harlem past the shooting scene in the Bronx and back into New Jersey, where supporters of the Diallos paid their last respects. One terminal at the busy airport was temporarily closed by the crowd's presence, one observer said.

Religious leaders outside the black community have given the issue their attention, Sharpton told the City News. But "not many and none of them calling out the mayor and the criminal justice system."



The Rev. Al Sharpton calls on Newark worshippers to join the New Hope Baptist Church

Another outrage has been Mayor Rudolf Giuliani's and police leaders' failure to condemn the police killing, Sharpton said. "I think they set the tone," Sharpton said.

He said the police's leaders in general. "When the police are told to be aggressive, to deal with blacks without concern or caution and the city will support them, it brings into question the mentality that they can bring to the job."

Seventy-five percent of turnpike arrests were minorities

TRENTON (AP)—Three-quarters of all motorists arrested on the New Jersey Turnpike during the first two months of 1997 were minorities, according to State Police.

The 109 arrest reports, released Tuesday to a daily newspaper, showed 62 or 57 percent of the 109 arrests involved black drivers or black passengers.

White motorists were the subject of 27 arrests, for mostly nondrug-related offenses. The remaining were 17 arrests of Hispanics, two Asians and one African American.

The newspaper did not give a breakdown of the charges relating to the arrests. State Police did not provide information about stops by troopers in which arrests were not made. Officials estimate that about 1 percent of the 100,000 traffic stops on the Turnpike result in arrest each year.

The statistics have renewed State Police critics' charges that troopers target motorists because of their race.

The State Police deny troopers use racial profiling and point out that 101 of the 109 arrests ended in guilty verdicts.

"The statistics are very alarming and disturbing," said the Rev. Reginald T. Jackson, executive director of the Black Ministers Council of New Jersey.

State Police spokesman John Hagerty vehemently denied the agency practices discrimination.

"Certainly the superintendent does not condone racial profiling. Racial profiling is not part of any trooper's training. It is certainly not a philosophy in the New Jersey State Police. Racial profiling is just not something that occurs," he said.

The attorney general warned against jumping to conclusions about the arrests, which make up only a small percentage of the total arrests by the State Police. Verniero said this was the first time the police had compiled their arrests in this fashion.

Attorney General Peter Verniero said he had just begun to review the information and had not yet come to any conclusions.

"Certainly there is enough here for me to ask some tough questions, and I will be doing that," Verniero reportedly said. "Anytime you see a set of statistics that indicate any kind of disparity in numbers, you have to be concerned, you have to ask questions, you have to scrutinize them very carefully."

Annual literacy program empowers youth

By Lucy Sanchez
Staff Writer

NEWARK—Newarker Reggie Harris joined Arly Alfaro of Univision's Channel 41 as chairs for the Celebrity Read kick-off program on Feb. 9. The breakfast highlighted the volunteers who read to thousands of elementary students around New Jersey.

Celebrity Read was created nine years ago by the United Way to encourage children to read and motivate adults volunteer in community building programs. It is offered in approximately 35 schools in Newark, East Orange, Irvington and Orange where there are learning problems or a high drop out rate exists.

"Children are at the epicenter of interest at United Way," stated Maria Vizzarondo-DeSoto, president and CEO of United Way of Essex and West Hudson. "We figured the reading program would be a really good opportunity

to promote literacy so that kids could get empowered and see the importance of education and how reading plays a role in that," stated DeSoto.

Congressman Donald Payne, Newark's public school Superintendent Dr. Beverly Hall, St. Matthew's AME Rev. Reginald Jackson, Willis Reed from the Nets basketball team, Councilman Wayne Smith and the brothers of Phi Beta Sigma fraternity attended this years annual Celebrity Read kick-off.

Harris is a prime example of DeSoto's other goal which is to hook in volunteers. The channel nine reporter comes back every year to be involved with the children and serve as a role model. "There's a lot of need here," stated Harris. "There's a lot of talented and bright kids here who really need the encouragement and opportunity to see that it's possible."

Harris told City News that the door to opportunity is not

open as wide as it used to be considering fewer loans, grants and the effort to expand the black middle class is not as strong as it was in the 60's and 70's. However he stated that it is up to grassroots efforts and community center to take on some of that responsibility. "Racism exists...and yes, you are going to be black your whole life so get used to it," stated Harris. "Get used to people reacting to you with some sort of preconceived notion as soon as you hit the room and then work your magic. Use your personality, your education and your God given nature...Never think you're less than anyone else because you can really do anything you want."

Two bilingual students from Ecole Toussaint L'Ouverture were motivated from Harris and the other celebrities, politicians and leaders who attended the breakfast celebration. Nardia Hunt and Lakesia Ford read essays in



UP10 News reporter Reggie Harris greets Nardia Hunt and Lakesia Ford for their essays during the Celebrity Read kick-off event in Newark. French and English to the crowd's ed room. "This is a good opportunity for us to express ourselves in front of all the celebrity readers," said 10-year-old Hunt. "It lets them know that we can do it." Ford and Hunt agreed that reading is the key to a bright future and success in life. It stresses the vital functions of reading and the power of literacy for our youth. Everyone left with a mission to empower the youth and in essence, the future of America.

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

NEWARK — Essex County College will hold a job fair for all college students at the main office conference room, Call (973) 673-3054 for time and information.

JERSEY CITY — New Jersey City University (NJCU) presents the play *Death Takes a Holiday* at Margaret Williams Theater of Hopton Hall on the campus of NJCU beginning at 8 p.m. (201) 200-3426.

NEPTUNE — Monmouth County Park schedules "Outdoors with Mom or Dad" at Shark River Park, Schoolhouse Road. This nature program for youngsters ages 1-3. (732)219-9484.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

SOUTH ORANGE — Sukaina's Inc. presents storyteller J.B. Walters reading passages of famous African American beginning at 7:30 p.m. (973) 782-2258.

NEWARK — The Office of Community Development for Newark Public Schools presents a summit on grandparents and their importance at the Newark Public Library beginning at 9 a.m. (973) 733-6710.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

ATLANTIC CITY — New Jersey's largest golf and tennis expo with special events, prizes, celebrities, and interactive displays at Caesar. (800)394-2467.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

JERSEY CITY — New Jersey City University (NJCU) will offer examination review for aspiring teachers beginning at 9 a.m. (201) 200-3426.

HEMPSTEAD, NY — African American Art and Jewelry from the Collections of Ambassador and Mrs. Uric Haynes, Jr. on display at Hofstra University. (516) 463-6816.

JERSEY CITY — Concerned Parents of Jersey City and Women of SUSTENANCE presents the 6th Annual Ancestors Masquerade: A Celebration of Black History at Miller Branch Library Auditorium beginning at 1 p.m. (201) 547-6907.

WATCHUNG — The Watching Arts Center brings live entertainment to the community. They will be holding their first "Open Mike" and auditions beginning at 9 p.m. at 18 Stirling Road.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22

NEWARK — The Women's Center at Essex County College is helping to break a stereotype by introducing more women into the construction trades through the 20-week "Training for Trades" program. (973) 877-3054.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Service Center will hold a birthday party for seniors born in February beginning at 1:30 p.m. (908) 753-3006.

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Adult School offers Plainfield residents and surrounding communities the opportunity to continue their education and to pursue special interests. (908) 753-3251.

NEW BRUNSWICK — The New Jersey State Bar Foundation will hold a free seminar on divorce laws and the rights of guardianship of children at the New Jersey Law Center beginning at 7 p.m. (732) 937-7518.

MONTECLAIR — Montclair State University presents a lecture on "African Influence in the Caribbean" featuring Lenworth Quarles at the Student Center Ballroom beginning at 7 p.m. (973) 655-7378.

NEW YORK — Playstation fans are invited to test their skills at Sony World's 2nd Annual Playstation "Masters Tournament." (212) 633-7858.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

PLAINFIELD — Plainfield Senior Citizens Service Center will hold a Black History Month celebration presented by the gifted and talented of Jefferson School of Plainfield beginning at 10:30 a.m. (973) 753-3506.

NEW BRUNSWICK — Tango Buenos Aires, this passionate production traces the colorful and often checkered history of the forbidden, irresistible tango at the State Theatre. (732)246-7469.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

SOUTH ORANGE — Sukaina's Inc. will hold a discussion on social and political issues facing the country with special guest James Mtume beginning at 7:30 p.m. (973) 782-2258.

NEWARK — The Newark Black Film Festival's Silver Anniversary Series, a celebration of its 25th year, offers two episodes of the award winning program *Eyes on the Prize*, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Call (973)596-6550.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

NEWARK — The New Jersey State Opera presents Andrea Chénier at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPD) beginning at 8 p.m. Call (973) 622-0775 or 1-888-CC-NJPC.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

TEANECK — Holy Name Hospital will offer a defensive driving course at the hospital's community health service building beginning at 9 a.m. (201) 833-3186.

"Youth for United Way" supports Union County's needy

Members of Linden High School's "Youth for United Way," a community service organization comprised of high school students, helped spread the joy of giving by donating a generous bounty of clothing and canned foods to those in need in Union County. Pictured are members standing proudly as they deliver several boxes and bags filled with clothing and canned foods to the Madison House in Elizabeth.



Local church honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his work



Musica was all around for the 7th Annual Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday at Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church in Roselle. Freesholder Chester Holmes of Rahway (right) presented a resolution to Myrla S. Counts, president of the NAACP Branch in Roselle.

The ARC celebrates 50 golden years.



Many of Union County's local leaders gathered in Plainfield to congratulate The ARC on 50 years of providing service to Union County's disabled. Joining in the celebration are (from left) ARC executive director Frank K. Caragher, Union County Freesholder Lewis Mingo Jr., former Freesholder and current city administrator Walter McNeill, and council members Elizabeth Urquhart and Adrian Mapp.

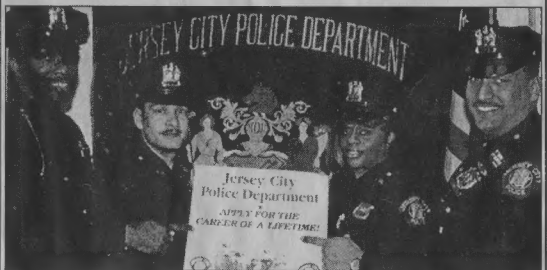
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Nation Briefs

CONTROVERSY RAGES OVER EFFORTS TO COMMEMORATE RACIST HANGING

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (AP) — A racist lynching nearly 100 years ago is still causing considerable controversy in Springfield.

On a cold weekend 1906, three black men — all innocent of wrongdoing — were dragged to the town square by an angry mob of about 7,000. There, in front of women and children, they were lynched, burned and dismembered.

"It didn't just affect blacks. It hurt a lot of people when this happened," said Lisa Carter, 29, the adopted granddaughter of Horace Duncan, who was killed along with Allen and Fred Coker.

The men were pulled from the city jail by a mob fueled by alcohol and rumors of a white woman's rape.

Within hours, hundreds of black people fled, taking with them the strong black community presence that had been in the area since the late 1800s.

Today a proposal to erect a plaque commemorating the lynching has drawn intense support from critics. Some of the harshest critics are black.

Rosemary Stewart-Stafford, whose family has lived in Springfield for seven generations, has offered to donate the plaque. The cost for installing it on the square is estimated at about \$100,000.

"I think because we were this explosive microcosm of racism in this one weekend, wouldn't it be great if for seven generations, has offered to donate the plaque. The cost for installing it on the square is estimated at about \$100,000."

GORE DISCUSSES THE BUDGET FOR RAIL LINK BETWEEN NEWARK AND ELIZABETH

ELIZABETH — Vice Pres. Al Gore scheduled Mayor Chris Bellwage of Elizabeth and Mayor Sharpe James of Newark to inform them that \$12 million from Pres. Clinton's budget proposal will go toward building the Newark-Elizabeth rail link.

In a conference call with several other mayors and officials from around the country, Gore said federal funding for projects such as the Newark-Elizabeth rail link and other light-rail systems are intended to build more livable communities, places where we spend less time in traffic jams and more time with our children and spouses.

The estimated \$142 million rail link would connect Newark Penn Station with the Broad Street station in downtown Newark.

Gore stated that this is only part of a total \$490 million that the Clinton-Gore administration proposed for transportation projects in New Jersey.

FOREIGN RESCUE GROUPS SEARCH FOR SURVIVORS IN COLOMBIA

By Vivian Sequera

ARMENIA, Colombia (AP) — They came from around the world — Russia, Mexico, Venezuela, Japan. For a week they have been searching the vast ruins of this coffee-growing town, looking, listening, smelling for signs of life.

"There's always a chance, but without water, without air, it's tough," said Pavelczek Lazaro, a doctor who heads a rescue squad from Hungary.

Hundreds of rescuers worked from dawn to dusk — bands of robbers make their work too dangerous after dark — but found only two victims: a woman and a 5-year-old girl, both of them dead.

More than half of Armenia was destroyed in the Jan. 25 earthquake, and nearly 1,000 bodies have been recovered from the rubble.

Rescue workers concede that after a week, there is little chance of finding anyone else alive.

"My intention always is to search for the living," said Marcos Zariamas, a 56-year-old Mexican nicknamed "flea" for his 110-pound frame and his jumpy temperament. "That's my job."

UNION SUES CITY OVER WELFARE WORKERS

NEW YORK (AP) — The city's largest municipal workers union filed a lawsuit against Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, claiming the city's welfare-to-work program is snatching jobs once held by union members.

Under the city's welfare program, thousands of welfare recipients have been put to work throughout the government as a requirement to earn their benefit checks, doing such jobs as raking leaves and painting. In the Parks Department alone, the city has increased the number of welfare participants from 836 in 1994 to over 6,000 in 1998, the suit said.

The city continues "to displace or partially displace regular employees" by using welfare workers to perform their jobs, the suit said.

A call to the mayor's office seeking comment was not immediately returned.

Foot Locker guilty of bias in case of 'subtle' racism

AUSTIN (AP) — A federal jury has awarded \$341,000 to a former Foot Locker shoe store manager who said the company discriminated against its black employees.

Lloyd Brown sued Foot Locker, claiming the company labeled its stores "regular" or "ethnic" depending on the location and makeup of customers. Black managers were only allowed to work in "ethnic" stores, he said.

"It wasn't blatant racism. It was subtle," said Brown's attorney David Brenner. "It took years for managers to find out they were being treated differently, that managers like Brown weren't being promoted on the same track and didn't have the same opportunities as other managers."

Brown, who was working at a Fort Worth store, said he was turned down for a manage-

ment position at an Austin store. Foot Locker attorneys said Brown didn't get the job because of poor work performance, not because of his race.

The jury disagreed. After five hours of deliberations Thursday, they awarded Brown \$91,000 in actual damages and \$250,000 in punitive damages.

Foot Locker maintained that the "regular" and "ethnic" labels were used to select merchandise for the stores and didn't influence how they promoted employees.

Brown and several other managers, both black and white, testified that white managers were promoted to larger-volume stores that were either "regular" or "ethnic," while black

managers were sent exclusively to "ethnic" stores.

According to court documents, stores with a black client base of 60 percent or more were labeled "ethnic." The rest were designated "regular."

The white managers, who ran "regular" stores 99 percent of the time, were promoted more quickly and more frequently, Foot Locker managers testified.

Brown, who managed an "ethnic" Foot Locker store in Killean from 1990 to 1993, testified that after he noticed the trend he asked to be promoted to a "regular" store to widen his career opportunities. Instead he was offered a promotion to an "ethnic" store in Fort Worth, Brown said.

But the store was in a high-crime area in a

mall that had a curfew to curb gang activity, Brown said.

While managing the store Brown said he lost ground in sales and got a poor performance review, which Foot Locker said made him ineligible for promotion.

"I couldn't control gang problems or the fact that the mall was empty or that kids couldn't shop there unless they were accompanied by a parent," said Brown, who left Foot Locker in 1995 after a white manager got the Austin job.

Foot Locker said the manager who preceded Brown slightly improved sales.

Foot Locker also was cited for not providing company documents, including the racial breakdown of managers, to Brown and his attorneys. The information was lost or destroyed, Foot Locker's attorneys said in court papers.

Jesse Jackson: Pataki is in tradition of Faubus and Wallace

By Marc Humbert

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Lashing out at a potential Republican national candidate, Jesse Jackson is likening New York Gov. George Pataki to southern segregationists George Wallace and Orval Faubus.

Pataki is being touted by supporters as a potential candidate for president or vice president next year and has stepped up his out-of-state travel in an attempt to boost his national stature.

But Jackson, in Albany to testify Tuesday at a legislative hearing in opposition to the governor's budget plans for education, said Pataki wanted to spend too much on prisons and not enough on classrooms.

When asked about Pataki's national aspirations, the two-time

Democratic presidential contender said the New York governor was following in the footsteps of the late G. Mervyn Faubus of Arkansas and Wallace of Alabama as well as former California Gov. Pete Wilson, who Jackson chastised for turning against affirmative action and cracking down on illegal immigrants.

"Pataki is trying what Wallace tried, what Faubus tried, what Wilson tried, and they all failed," Jackson said.

"We see Pataki in that tradition," Jackson said. "There's Faubus and there's Wallace and there's Wilson and now here is Pataki ... Are we really blocking school doors in Alabama and Arkansas or simply locking kids out of closed school doors in New York is not the wave of the American future."

One Pataki political ally, state Assembly Minority Leader John Paso, said he was "outraged" by Jackson's comments.

"It really shows he isn't interested in genuinely contributing to the debate here in New York about the budget," Paso said. "He's more interested in throwing political Molotov cocktails."

Pataki spokesman Michael McKoon said Jackson's "partisan attacks are so outrageous they don't even merit a response."

Faubus, who died in 1994, gained national attention when he called out the National Guard in 1957 in an attempt to block the desegregation of Little Rock's schools.

Wallace, who died last year, twice ran unsuccessfully for president. He stood in the schoolhouse door in 1963 in an attempt to keep blacks from

enrolling at the University of Alabama. Wallace later repudiated his segregationist past.

Pataki, despite a budget surplus he estimates at about \$2 billion, has proposed a school aid increase of just \$154 million in his \$72.7 billion budget plan. He has also proposed elimination of specific funding for pre-kindergarten classes and to reduce class size in lower grades. That has drawn fire from New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and a host of Republican and Democratic state lawmakers.

On another New York political front, Jackson, who has been providing spiritual counseling to the Clinton family in the wake of the Monica Lewinsky affair, said he did not know whether first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton would run for the Senate seat



Rev. Jesse Jackson from New York next year. But, pressed about the Senate race, Jackson added coyly:

"There are some outstanding prospects, and I am encouraging her." State Democratic Chairwoman Judith Hope has said she thinks there is a 50-50 chance Mrs. Clinton will run for the Senate seat being vacated by Democrat Daniel Patrick Moynihan.



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After welfare, many families face

By Mariano Wright Edelman

At the beginning of this month, the Children's Defense Fund and the National Coalition for the Homeless released a joint report showing what's happening to families leaving the welfare rolls. Families on welfare are being asked to leave their homes. Congress and the states insisted the must. Over 3.8 million parents and children have left welfare since the signing of the 1996 law. But many more of the families leaving welfare do not have jobs. Among welfare recipients finding a job by March 1998, 71 percent earn less than \$250 a week, which is below the poverty level.

The passage and signing of the welfare law in 1996 election year has left behind many families struggling to get food, shelter and medical care. In many cities, one in 10 families in homeless shelters say they are because of welfare cuts. Without help like child care, transportation, training, and wage supplements, too many families are trying to survive on very low wages, and extreme poverty is growing more common for women, especially those of female-headed and working families. The number of children living in families below the poverty line, or below the poverty line (60¢ a year) for a three person family increased from 6 million in 1995 to 6.4 million in 1997. That's nearly 10 million children nationwide plunged into deep poverty.

Stop and look at those numbers again. They're just statistics in a newspaper. They are children, poor children who are twice as likely as non-poor children to be born at low birth weight and/or repeat a grade in school. Poor children will score lower on reading and math tests and suffer more mental and physical disabilities. They are expected to earn 25% lower wages as adults.

Families who leave welfare are increasingly unable to pay their rent. School children are being evicted from homes or apartments and if they can find housing at all their children would most likely have to change schools. Children who move and change schools frequently score lower on reading and math tests and are more prone to drop out of school. And all of those families are higher income than the average, ma, chronic diarrhea, delayed immunizations, family separation, and missed

school. What kind of future does this predict for our country when our most precious resource, our children, are growing to adulthood so burdened and handicapped? What kind of society are we creating for our children who are hungry, endangered, and otherwise tortured by poverty, and allow it to be so? We are creating for our children a future where Long walking lists for child care assistance in Texas left 30,000 families waiting for help. And even when help is available, many are moving from welfare to work are not aware they can qualify for it, and not familiar enough with the system to fight bureaucratic mistakes. In Utah, according to a retired state welfare administrator, half of the families cut off from welfare had reasons that they could not immediately go to work, but their problems were not identified and addressed. One mother cut off had a disability herself, no transportation, and was caring for her 7-year-old son who had neurofibromatosis.

Many states that created innovative and supportive programs to help families find stable, above-poverty employment. I applied the efforts of Rhode Island, which provides child care help for all families with income up to 165% of the poverty line, an Illinois policy that reduces but does not eliminate cash assistance to recipients who work at a very low wage; a Federal program that provides child care for low-income child care at convenient transportation hours; and a California program that allows welfare to community colleges for job training.

There are answers, and I implore our federal, state, and local government to support these programs, as well as the following changes:

Allow education and training to count towards the work requirement. Give states the flexibility to use federal welfare funds to pay partial benefits when families work at least part-time, and those months counting towards the family's welfare. Use federal and state funds in quality child care; and invest in more federal child care. The federal government has a record of 5.3 million households who pay more than half their incomes for rent and/or live in substandard housing.

The crises many families are facing and will face as time limits loom can be missed. We simply cannot afford millions of children to such suffering.

Mariano Wright Edelman is president of Children's Defense Fund and a working committee member of the Black Crusade for Children (BCCC).

Fighting for a living wage

Dr. Manning Marable

According to most economists and corporate interests, 1998 was a banner year for capitalism. Rebounding from its disastrous decline last year, the stock market roared back to record a 16 percent gain in 1998. The stock market had netted even higher gains in the previous year, about the same amount annually. This means that more than two trillion dollars in equity has been produced at least on paper—in this recent bull market.

Economists like to point out that 150 million Americans are invested in the stock market, mostly through their pension funds, mutual funds, and individual stock accounts. What this fails to add is that the lion's share of this wealth is owned by a very small number of the nation's wealthiest people. About 10 percent of the U.S. population owns or controls more than 70 percent of the nation's total wealth. This figure includes all stocks, bonds, real estate, and all assets of any kind. The top one percent of the U.S. population actually owns about 40 percent of the nation's wealth. This means that the overwhelming majority of Americans, the ninety percent that have less than 30 percent of the capital and resources, have very different lives than most at the top. It is in this latter group that one finds nearly all African Americans. Latent, single-parent households, working class and poor people.

The great majority of American citizens have no expectations or aspirations for great wealth or grandeur. They want nothing in common with the televised "lifestyles of the rich and famous." We pay our bills sent aside money to buy a home or to put our children through college. Those of us fortunate enough to have job security can plan for our retirement, and perhaps even take a vacation once a year. To achieve these modest goals takes at least a "living wage," the basic level of income necessary to meet the most basic needs for consumption needs of a family of four food, housing, transportation, utilities, clothing, taxes and co-payments for health care and child care. A commitment to a living wage should guarantee Medicare benefits to all workers, from their initial date of employment through the end of the period covered by Unemployment Insurance, plus coverage for their spouses, partners and dependent children.

Unfortunately, despite the billions of dollars generated on Wall Street, the capitalist economy has conspicuously failed to produce living wage jobs for millions of Americans. A recent study by the National Priorities Project, in collaboration with Jobs With Justice, illustrates the problem by focusing on New York. The study first determined that a truly livable annual wage for a family of four

in New York, using the criteria outlined above, was about \$36,600. Using this standard, in 1998, only 70 percent of the jobs with the most growth in New York pay less than the livable wage. For example, an average supermarket clerk in New York State has an annual salary of \$32,883, or about 90 percent of the livable wage. Keep in mind, about the same amount in real and third less than the average family income in New York State. This means that the livable wage is essentially a subsistence wage with little or no money for "luxuries."

Clerical supervisors in New York earn an average wage of \$27, 872, or approximately 76 percent of the livable wage. Other occupations at less than the livable wage include janitors and cleaners, \$21,320 (58 percent) of the livable wage; receptionists, \$20,342 (56 percent); and teachers aides, \$19,261 (53 percent).

Recent studies of the working classes are those whom sociologist William Julius Wilson described as the "truly disadvantaged." These are millions of working people who live in the inner city and live in the federal government's poverty level, which is now about \$14,500 for a family of four. For example, according to the National Priorities Project, the fastest growing occupation in New York State today is in retail sales. The average annual wage for retail salespeople is only \$14,248. The typical food preparation worker earns only \$11,939 a year, about 33 percent of a livable wage, and well below the official poverty level.

Any amount of executive pay that is less than the average wage of \$11,586, waiters and waitresses, \$11,336.

These economic trends in New York are shared throughout the country. For the bottom 80 percent of all wage earners, real hourly wages have fallen steadily, about 20 percent in the last 25 years. Conditions are predicted to worsen for African Americans workers. By 1995, almost 40 percent of black workers earned less than the minimum wage. What is to be done? Since the capitalist economy and Wall Street clearly cannot produce jobs at livable wages, we need to take matters into our own hands. All over the country, more than a dozen cities have passed "living wage" ordinances. We must support state referendums that would raise the minimum wage. But perhaps the most important reform would be to close the vast gap between the salaries of the corporate elite vs. most working people. What about limiting the corporate tax deductibility of executive compensation to 25 times that of the lowest-paid full-time worker in a business? Any amount of executive pay that level would be subject to taxation, saving millions of dollars. The time for economic justice is now. The fight for a living wage must be taken both to Wall Street and Congress.

African centered education and economic independence

By Dr. Conrad W. Worril

In this present era of economic and educational onslaught against the African Community in America, it is important that we understand that the rise of the African Centered Education Movement should be linked to our quest for economic independence.

It is not from the "American dream" through African Centered Educational activities so that we might better understand the importance of economic self-reliance.

One model that we draw strength from in pursuing economic and educational liberation is the model established by the Honorable Marcus Mosiah Garvey and the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) in the 1920s. The more I read and study about Marcus Garvey, the more I am amazed at the great contributions he made to Africa and the African people, and self-sufficient people. At the core of Marcus Garvey's program was his urging African people to acquire education and economic power. As he always stated, "A race without power is a race without respect."

When we examine the economic condition of Africa in America, and throughout the world, we find one glaring problem-African people do not control our economic resources at the level of the individual. It is a direct miseducation as a people. In a disproportionate manner, African people represent the majority of the poor in the United States, and no matter how much people try to move for food, clothing and shelter. More often than not, the European and Asian workers are the producers, processors, and managers of the economy. African people are the consumers.

This was one of the major problems that the Honorable Marcus Mosiah Garvey addressed in his life. He and that Minister Farman is addressing today. As Dr. Tony Martin writes in his book *Race First*, which is one of the best books written on the life of Marcus Garvey, "Marcus Garvey, unlike his major rivals in the United States, Africa, was a mass organization that went beyond civil rights agitation and protest and based itself upon a definite, well thought out program that he believed would lead the African people out of the race from white domination."

To implement his program, Garvey set up the Negro Factories Corporation and the Negro Housing Corporation and operated factories in the big industrial centers of the United States, Central America, the West Indies, and Africa.

What social "Crisis"?

By Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.

The same economic interests whose political representatives were opposed to Social Security (SS) in 1935 are still opposed to it in 1998—the privatizers. Their trick is to instill a political "crisis" over the public program of SS in order to propagate a political outcry for privatization.

Politicians mess with SS at their peril. Every American has a stake in SS and it has worked well for the past 60 years. SS provides universal portability and nearly universal protection. Ninety-six percent of those now working (nearly 142 million) are covered, while less than half of Americans with private pension plans are covered, and that number is eroding. Without SS, 54 percent of the elderly would be in poverty.

SS was designed as one leg of a three-legged stool, the others being private pension plans and personal savings. It was created to provide economic security for millions of Americans in retirement because a "market economy" did not provide security for all Americans. In fact, SS was created as a response to a collapsed stock market in 1929. It was not created to provide security at a time when half the nation does not have a pension, and few have any savings at all, SS is the leg of the stool under attack.

SS is a transfer program where today's workers pay today's beneficiaries. Therefore, it is an economic security program designed to protect society.

We are told by some that we must acknowledge that the SS system as we know it is in trouble. In fact, we are told it is in trouble, and that it needs to be fixed! Various reforms are being suggested, including some drastic ones, such as raising SS taxes, cutting bene-

The NRC established a chain of cooperative grocery stores, a restaurant, a steaks, laundry, tailor and dressmaking shop, a millinery store, and a publishing house.

Mr. Garvey also established a steamship company, The Black Star Line. He envisioned a fleet of steamships carrying passengers and establishing a steam line from Africa to America, the United States, Central America, the Caribbean, and Africa.

In the summer of 1920, Garvey launched his first annual convention at the First Annual Convention of the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) of which he was the founder and first president. Garvey.

On August 2, 1920, after a massive parade of thousands of well-dressed, uniformed masses of the UNIA, 5,000 delegates from over the United States and some 25 countries convened at Madison Square Garden, in New York City. It was the largest gathering in the history of the hall.

Dr. Martin explains that, "Central to the UNIA's basic understanding of Garvey's program was the question of race. For Garvey, the Black man was universally oppressed on racial grounds, and he must be deeply rooted in the day to day away from this issue, the fact is, this is still true today."

As Malcolm X says, "I was our Black people's best understanding of our race and our identity as Blacks, Muslims, Baptists or Methodists." If we are ever to become a liberated people this idea must be deeply rooted in the day to day organizing and mobilizing of our people as we seek economic and educational liberation for the Black man in America. America has abandoned this idea in their organizing projects.

Mr. Garvey understood that the foundation of his program was economic and educational independence based on racial solidarity. There are numerous reasons we can learn from the failure of the UNIA. Garvey's program was the question of race. For Garvey, the Black man was universally oppressed on racial grounds, and he must be deeply rooted in the day to day away from this issue, the fact is, this is still true today."

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Who's going to protect us from the police?

How are the men and women in blue ranking with our society today? Equipped with a badge, a night stick and a license to kill, if necessary, describes one of the most feared groups in America today.

The men and women are supposed to be trained to serve and protect us. They are drilled with academic courses pertaining to the constitutional law and the rights of citizens. They are supposed to ensure that justice is done for all. However, the one thing we learned is that police officers are also human beings. They have faults, imperfections, biases and discriminations that are part of our genetic makeup. When we come to terms with this we can take them off this pedestal which they are often placed on. We must take a more aggressive role in holding officers accountable for mistakes they may make over the years they take. Yes there are a lot of good officers who put their life on the line everyday to protect citizens. However, there are also too many officers who pull their trigger too quickly, who physically assault victims, who harass citizens, who ultimately feel they are above and beyond the law. The majority of the time it's people of color who are the victims of this police brutality and it has to stop.

Who are we supposed to turn to for help, granted that we survive? Will we receive a fair trial? Will justice be served? Or will the system stick together and check us off as one of their statistics?

Let's face it, black groups are not going to be given to these officers continuously to ensure that there is no pattern of biased arrests, racially provoked harassment, or physical abuse of blacks. There should not be a majority of people of color behind bars, particularly young, black, males while in American prisons. Only 12 percent of the population of the American population. There should be no more wrongful blood shed like in the case of Dillio, there should be no questions unanswered for police brutality.

I am compulsive to think that society fears those who have sworn to protect and serve all American people. It's giving our judicial system a horrible name. It makes you doubt those who are supposed to be role models and leaders in our community. This is not reflective of all of our officers. However, there are too many in this category. They will be subjected to the some degree of punishment. They are not only breaking their oaths, they are not valuing the lives of other human beings and they are losing the trust of the American people.

An Open Letter

To the Black Nation

Dear Family,

It has been brought to our attention that on January 20th, U.S. Postal Service will unveil a "Malcolm X" postage stamp in Harlem at the Apollo Theater as the cost of this postage goes from 32 cents to 33 cents.

The stamp is to bear a photo of Malcolm at the Theresa Hotel on May 21, 1964, at that famous press conference he held upon his return from abroad, from Mecca, the Muslim world and "Duch of Africa, after his difficult departure from the Nation of Islam."

Many will ask "Does this move come with the blessings and permission of his family?" And if it does, fine.

We wish it was that simple. Unfortunately, it isn't. We are the resurgent interest in Malcolm in recent years, especially among the youth of the Black nation, the racist and imperialist American state and its multinational corporate superstructure, has aggressively sought to confuse our people, especially our youth, about Malcolm in order to help them not only the misdirected and isolated of our people, but for us as a nation, for our human rights and for our right to self-determination to the entire international community.

They tried with Spike Lee's overplayed movie. They tried by using black revolutionary scholars' over their heads to Malcolm's work. They even tried to criminalize his mother and father and question his sexuality in the name of scholarship. Against the community's best wishes, they even turned the Audubon Ballroom, where Malcolm organized and was ultimately assassinated into a gene splicing facility. They used the material essence of life is now being handled by unknown parties and in ways that the people know not. Imagine that... Giuliani's police will "sample" your DNA when they take you into custody and pass it off to some Dr. Strangelove who will do what you know what with it at the Audubon of all places!

A stamp from the government is just a stamp that says "compromising" historical luggage that must be examined.

First, at every major turn of our struggle in 20th Century America, the Postal Service has collaborated in the covert actions of the national security state apparatus of the United States Government.

In its early days as the then Bureau of Investigation, more specifically the General Intelligence Division of "The Bureau" (Federal) was added in 1935), the government, in collaboration with the Post Office, helped Marcus Garvey, our first modern political prisoner as a consequence, with mail fraud to deny his popularization of the nationalism among our people.

The FBI, as part of its CONTROL-PRO Operations in the 1960s, in collaboration with the Postal Service, has used "bogus letters" to foment distrust and violence between parties in our struggle as it did between Malcolm and Elijah Muhammad, between the Black Panther Party and U.S. (Muslims) Karenga's of the Black Black Panther Party and SNCC, between the Black Panther Party and the Blackstone Rangers in Chicago, and between Martin Luther King who genuinely loved America and his own wife.

The CIA, in collaboration with the Postal Service, had at least three mail-related covert campaigns against our struggle, including PROJECT HUNTER, OPERATION CHAOS and OPERATION RAINBOW, that have since been brought to public light in recent years with the declassification of "some" government documents with the Freedom of Information Act.

At no time, at no time, has the Postal Service ever even acknowledged its collaboration in these sinister covert operations and at no time have they ever even apologized to our people for their role in all of this.

It is our position then the government, with this stamp, is continuing it's efforts to distort and co-opt Malcolm's legacy. They are absolutely could not do so in life, by implicitly asserting that he became an "American interrogations City Rights leader" uncompromising revolutionary that we know he was.

In challenging our criticism of this development and of the participation of the Shabazz Family in this process, some might say that Malcolm's legal estate, his legal legacy, is doing in death what Malcolm's serious difficulty doing in those incredible last days of his life... provide for his family.

Well taken... But if Malcolm did not compromise his principles even under those inhumane pressures and circumstances, why is it all right to compromise him now?

Let's take Malcolm's enormous legacy into century 21 intact, without compromise...

"...I don't want the white man giving me medals. If I'm following a general in battle, and the enemy begins to give towards, I get suspicious of him. Especially if he gets the peace award before the war is over..."

Malcolm X, Dec. 1964 interview with Claude Lewis.

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BUSINESS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

NEW BRUNSWICK — A free public seminar on estate and federal income tax will be held at the New Jersey Law Center beginning at 7 p.m. (732) 937-7518.

PARSIPPANY — Learn business writing basics for professionals in just one day with Skill Path Seminars at the Holiday Inn, 797 Route 46 E. (908) 677-7545.

CAMDEN — Women, Minorities, and Veterans Prequal presented at Camden College beginning at 10 a.m. (609) 538-1817 ext. 3162. Union County Economic Development Corporation will hold a workshop on business plan on the internet at Kean University's Willis Hall beginning at 1 p.m. (908) 527-1207.

ELIZABETH — Women for the Future at the Municipal Building will hold a 1/2 day workshop for women beginning at 7:30 p.m. (908) 232-5787.

CRANFORD — Management skills for supervisors course available at Union County College beginning at 8 p.m. (908) 730-7600.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

CRANFORD — Union County College will offer a business course on management skills for supervisors beginning at 6 p.m. (908) 730-7600.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

CALDWELL — The Caldwell Chamber of Commerce presents a seminar on home ownership beginning at 6:30 p.m. (973) 226-5550.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

UNION — New Jersey planning officials training workshop is a must for every planning and zoning official at Union County Economic Development Corp. beginning at 8:30 a.m. (908) 412-9592.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22

EDISON — Management Tools Workshop beginning at 4 p.m. at 2015 Lincoln Highway. (908) 452-1007.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

NEWARK — FEMA organized workshops to deal with the potential Year 2000 transition issues. It begins at 8 a.m. at the Gateway Center, Raymond Blvd. (202) 646-FEMA.

MONTECLAIR — The Montclair Chamber of Commerce will hold a business discussion on property taxes in the millennial beginning at 7 p.m. (973) 744-7660.

SBA offers rules to protect small businesses from 'contract bundling'

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Small Business Administration recently proposed regulations that would protect small businesses involved with federal government contracting. Once adopted, the rules will establish definitions for the practice known as "contract bundling" and supply remedies to counter the negative impact that bundling has on small businesses. The public has until March 15 to comment on the proposal before the agency takes steps toward finalization.

"The SBA has proposed a set of regulations that should help protect 'contract bundling' doesn't shut the doors of opportunity for small businesses," said SBA Administrator Adia Alvarez. "It

may be easier to lump together a number of small contracts, but it doesn't benefit the taxpayer if it means higher costs from decreased competition. And we must make sure we aren't harming the small business owner and his or her employees."

The proposed SBA regulations, which appeared Jan. 13 in the Federal Register, explain that "contract bundling" occurs when procurement officials combine two or more contracts that previously had been offered separately. In many cases, the scope of the new contract places it beyond the capabilities of any one small business.

Increased use of the "bundled contracts" can lead to a decrease in

prime federal contracting with small businesses, which averages about \$40 billion per year. Overall federal contracting averages close to \$200 billion per year.

The proposed regulations acknowledge that in this new era of government procurement some bundling may be necessary. But the agency wants federal officials to submit for SBA review any procurement identified as a "bundled contract." The agency is leaving open the option of challenging these in an attempt to negotiate a more equitable distribution, particularly for small businesses. Among the remedies available include requesting that the large procurement be broken up into smaller con-

tracts or that portions be segmented and offered as small business set-asides.

The SBA proposal also establishes clear guidelines for small businesses that want to create a joint venture, or team, to be broken down. Under the old rules, small businesses bundling together were sometimes disqualified on certain contracts because the new employee count or combined revenues would exceed the SBA's definition of a small business. With the new rules, if the firms are small before they enter the arrangement, a joint venture won't change that status.

In addition, if the procurement is described in the statement of work as a "substantial bundling," then the SBA is

seeking a written justification from the procuring official. The SBA will evaluate this to see if it truly benefits the government in terms of cost savings, faster acquisition cycle or better overall terms and conditions. Procurements not meeting the criteria will be subject to a challenge.

The SBA has not yet defined what constitutes substantial bundling, and is inviting public comment to help resolve the issue. A definition could reflect a threshold dollar value or a combination of factors such as geographical locations and industrial classifications. Written comments should be sent to the SBA's Office of Government Contracting in Washington, D.C.

Home Equity Scams:

Borrowers beware

WASHINGTON — You could lose your home and your money if you borrow from unscrupulous lenders who offer you a high-cost loan based on the equity you have in your home. Certain lenders target homeowners who are elderly or who have low incomes or credit problems — then try to take advantage of them by using deceptive practices. Be on the lookout for:

Equity Stripping
The lender gives you a loan, based on the equity in your home, not on your ability to repay based on your income. If you can't make the payments, you could end up losing your home.

Loan Flipping
The lender encourages you to repeatedly refinance the loan and often, to borrow more money. Each time you refinance, you pay additional fees and interest points. That only serves to increase your debt.

Credit Insurance Packing
The lender adds credit insurance to your loan, which you may not need.

Bait and Switch
The lender offers one set of loan terms when you apply, then pressures you to accept higher charges when you sign to complete the transaction.

Deceptive Loan Servicing
The lender doesn't provide you with accurate or complete account statements and payoff figures. That makes it almost impossible for you to determine if you can't pay or how much you owe. You may pay more than you owe.

Some of these practices violate federal credit laws dealing with disclosures about loan terms, discrimination based on age, gender, marital status, race, or national origin, and debt collection.

You also may have additional rights under state law that would allow you to bring a law suit.

If you're thinking about using your home as collateral for a loan, be careful. Unless you can make the loan payments out of current income, you could lose your home as well as the equity you've already built up. Some other tips to remember:

- The lure of extra money or the chance to reduce monthly credit payments can be very costly in the long run. High interest rates and other credit costs can get you in over your head.

- Credit insurance may not be a good deal for a lender. If you want the added security of credit insurance, shop around.

- Don't sign a loan agreement if the terms are not what you were given when you applied.

- Ask for an explanation of any dollar amount, term, or condition that you don't understand. Federal law is very clear about what credit and loan information must be provided in writing when you apply for a loan and before you sign any agreement.

In addition, shop around for the best loan terms and interest rates. Contact lending institutions, such as banks and credit unions, and consult a legal or financial advisor, or someone you can trust before you make any loan decisions. Or contact your local Fair Housing Office, legal aid, or senior services organization for information and help.

FEMA urges local communities and emergency services sector to get ready now for Y2K

WASHINGTON — Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials are urging the emergency management, fire and emergency services communities and the public to get ready now for the year 2000.

"It is very important that counties, municipalities, school districts and other organizations that have not yet begun to work on Y2K issues, start now," FEMA Deputy Director Mike Walker said. "While some failures will be minor annoyances, some may have more serious consequences."

The Y2K issue is worldwide and refers to electronic and computer system problems that may occur because of the inability of date-sensitive devices to compute "2000" when systems move from 1999 to the Year 2000. Virtually all systems that rely on computers or electronic devices that refer to date and

time may be affected by Y2K in one way or another. This includes power, dispatch and communications systems, 911 systems, microcomputers, and much more.

In a recent FEMA survey of state emergency management directors concerning Y2K issues at the state and local levels, the directors reported that although Y2K fixes are well underway in state-level emergency preparedness offices, the emergency service systems in many counties and municipalities remain untested.

"Generally states and the larger local governments are aware of and making some progress toward resolving Y2K issues, however, many smaller local governments as well as some state and territorial governments seem not to be aware of the problem," Walker said. "Clearly the most serious

potential for problems is at the local level, and this is what we are concerned about."

In February and March, FEMA will conduct Y2K Consequence Management workshops around the country to identify critical issues, assess vulnerabilities, review contingency plans and consider policies and decisions that need to be taken to deal with possible Y2K consequences. Participants will include state Y2K emergency coordinators, emergency managers and state fire marshals as well as regional representatives of FEMA's Federal Response Plan partners.

The group is working to make sure that all segments of the nation's emergency management community operate normally through the cross-over period from 1999 to the Year 2000 and beyond.

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Local Briefs

"African Discovery Through Music"

EAST ORANGE—What songs did distressed slaves sing to signal impending danger? Did you know that the patterns and carvings etched in drums, Africa's most traditional musical instruments, often symbolized prayers, proverbs or pieces of history from a specific tribe? On Thursday, Feb. 18, this sampling of questions and facts will be shared among others during a fun and educational program for the entire family. The free Black history program entitled "African Discovery Through Music" will take place at Rozencrans Manor located at 180 Main St., Orange, NJ beginning at 6:00 p.m. Call (973) 266-5432 for more information.

Improvements underway at six Plainfield playgrounds

PLAINFIELD—Six Plainfield playgrounds and recreational facilities are undergoing rehabilitation this winter so that new equipment will be in place for spring 1999. The work is the first phase of a master plan for recreation infrastructure improvements that will ultimately invest half a million dollars in the city's recreation facilities. The grant is for \$139,000 of which \$98,330 is being spent for new equipment, with the balance being used to remove and dispose of older equipment, prepare the footers, and provide fall zones and any necessary landscaping touches when installation is finished. Facilities being improved through this grant include Rock Avenue Field, Rushmore Field, Seidler Field, Bryant Park, Mathewson Playground, and the playgrounds at the Hannah Aldins Pool.

Actor Danny Glover celebrates Black History Month

NEW BRUNSWICK—Actor Danny Glover will take part in a month-long event commemorating Black History month presented by Rutgers' Mason Gross School of the Arts (MGSA) at 5 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 21.

Glover's appearance is part of "When Prose Becomes Poet: Musings of African American Poets and Composers in Celebration of Black History Month," which will take place at Nicholas Music Center on the Douglass College campus.

Glover will read text by the African American poet James Weldon Johnson, which has been set to an original musical composition. The music will be performed by and MGSA student ensemble.

Researched and written in collaboration with the renowned Black inven-

Community officials furious about State's largest cut in school aid

HILLSIDE—In response to the announcement of recent state school aid budget figures and the drastic reduction of their district's aid by 3%, the Township of Hillside hosted a press conference on Feb. 1, 1999. They discussed the impact and consequences of the reduction, of over \$560,000 in total funding, upon the students and residents.

The township has seen a steady growth in school enrollment over the past three years and now with this serious reduction in funds, they are highly concerned that Hillside will not be able to carry out its regular duties as well as fulfilling state mandates.

"It's obvious that the present school aid formula which decreases aid in some of the most economically

depressed school districts defies logic," stated Assemblyman William Payne. "During this time when we are looking for our young people, and while we recognize that it is important to be the educational experience at even earlier ages. With children as young as three and four years old, we realize that now is the time to increase funding in education, not decrease it."

Payne, was accompanied by Senator Wynona M. Lipman, Assemblyman Donald Tucker, Mayor Barbara Rowen, Superintendent Dr. Hiroko Miyakawa, President of Hillside Board of Education Fred Lester, and Chairman of Hillside Board of Education Finance Committee Beverly Lynn.

Although the Hillside Public

School District is not considered an Abbott Special Needs District, it does share many of the urban characteristics and factors that were determined by the New Jersey Supreme Court to be detrimental for effective learning. Furthermore, three Special Needs Districts border upon Hillside—Newark, Elizabeth, and Irvington. It has a history of defeated budgets. Therefore, the district does not receive the needed level of funding to support the district's programs and facilities or to offer the per pupil spending levels comparable to the Abbott and I/J districts. In addition, the influx of Special Education students and those students placed into the school system by DYFS requires additional money to meet their needs.

"Any decrease in State Aid will diminish the district's ability to offer comparable educational programs and facilities," stated Lester, "which are available to their counterparts in the Abbott and I/J districts. Without equalized opportunities to learn, it is reasonable to conclude that the students of Hillside will be at a disadvantage."

Like many school systems, Hillside also faces the challenge of finding space for their growing enrollment. They have turned libraries, art rooms, music rooms and computer rooms into instructional classrooms. While apprehensive about the State School Aid to Hillside, the Board of Education remained optimistic about the issues of equitable funding and the

State's large surplus.

"The Hillside Public Schools have come a long way," stated Miyakawa. "However, it will need resources to meet and exceed 21st Century standards as well as maintain the progress that has been made to date. In order to do so, the community of Hillside will need to join together to understand the pervasive effects of State-created and State-mandated property taxes."

Miyakawa called for a change of parameters to determine property value equally or the implementation of a new way to fund school districts without using property tax, or else, Hillside will continue to have the same tax concerns annually at budget time.

McDonald's launches enlightening "Little Known Black History Facts," school program

OAK BROOK, IL—Imagine a student being taught that contrary to the images traditionally presented by Hollywood, the first cowboys in the old West were African American men. Or, how about discovering that the first use of a sail to power a ship and the craft of ship-building itself have both been traced directly to ancient Africa?

These and many more intriguing facts are among those found in the new McDonald's "Little Known Black History Facts" education program, being introduced to nearly 4,500 high school teachers in cities across the country during Black History Month.

The "Little Known Black History Facts" education program is a part of McDonald's on-going commitment to promoting education and cultural understanding among youth. The program's thought-provoking activities are designed to resonate with teachers, giving them a new tool in teaching students about the rich history and legacy of African Americans.

The education program is composed of a complete, month-long Lesson Plan, two colorfully illustrated "Little Known Black History Facts" booklets and a poster for classroom display and reference. These unique instructional tools enable teachers to chart a path through history, uncovering rarely acknowledged facts and instilling in youth of all cultures truths about the enduring and immeasurable contributions of Africans and African Americans.

Researched and written in collaboration with the renowned Black inven-



The original Statue of Liberty depicted a black woman breaking chains.

tions Museum in Los Angeles. "Little Known Black History Facts" are a regularly featured segment on syndicated radio's popular "Tom Joyner Morning Show," where they first caught the attention of the National Black McDonald's Operators Association (NBMOA). "McDonald's franchisees in communities all across the country are enthusiastic about being the resource for obtaining this invaluable information throughout Black History Month," says NBMOA Chairman Craig Welburn.

The McDonald's booklets each feature up to 16 profiles of African and African American men and women of historical note, with rarely acknowledged facts about their heritage.



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Celebrate Black History Month with The Great Kings & Queens of Africa Portraits

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The Great Kings & Queens of Africa program features a series of unique portraits—each the work of a talented African-American artist. This remarkable series brings the past to life: It not only celebrates the centuries of rich contributions African leaders have made to world history, but it also provides a prominent stage on which today's young artists can express their talents.

Today, these 29 portraits have become one of the most treasured art collections reclaiming the heritage of African-American culture. Through a traveling exhibit, Budweiser's Great Kings & Queens of Africa program has touched the lives of millions, educating and inspiring audiences across America.

Budweiser is proud to help keep the spirit of Africa's great leaders alive. Our hope is that these powerful portraits will inspire all who see them to use their talents to create a rich, vibrant future for our communities.

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Black Culinarian Alliance puts the sass in soul food

By Gilda Rogers
Staff Writer

ENGLEWOOD CLIFFS-The French say "Bon appetit" but, soulfully speaking, that translates into "Now that's some good eating," which is also descriptive of "Courses in Black History: A Culinary Tour Through The African American Experience." This tribute to African-American and Caribbean cuisine was recently hosted by Bestfoods at its corporate headquarters in Englewood Cliffs in honor of Black History Month.

Bestfoods, known for such foods as Skippy Peanut Butter, and chefs from

the Black Culinarian Alliance, stirred up a myriad of mouth-watering dishes that embellished soul food's tradition.

Serving up an enlightening oration centered on the food of the African Diaspora was food historian and cookbook author Jessica Harris. However, the salute to Jefferson Evans, 77, the first African American to graduate from the Culinary Institute of America, solidified the purpose of the day's event.

Evans was amongst the first 12 students to graduate from the famed institute in 1947. A native of Crawfordville, Georgia, Evans at the age of 16 moved to Washington, D.C., where he landed his first job.

"My first job was a dishwasher," said the dapper Evans, whose long silver mane immediately brought the likeness of Frederick Douglass to one's mind. "I didn't want to be a dishwasher and that's when I decided I wanted to learn how to cook."

Perfecting the art, Evans eventually opened the doors to his own restaurant, "The One and Only" for several years in Connecticut, where he now resides. Also, before hanging up his apron and prestigious chef's hat, Evans taught at the Culinary Institute of America from 1970-75.

Today's new breed of black chefs, the Black Culinarian Alliance is keeping the cooking tradition and the universal appeal for food alive by mentoring youth interested in pursuing careers in the culinary arts, food service and hospitality industry. Formed as an alumni organization of the Culinary Institute of America, the BCA which boasts national memberships, recognized the need in 1993 for their input in the lives of young high school students.

"There was no representation on a whole for African Americans in the food service and hospitality industry," said Newark resident and president of



Jefferson Evans and his wife, Otella Evans mingle near the kitchen

tions with roasted apples and black eye pea relish, dazzled the taste buds of those gathered at the event saluting African American and Caribbean food.

"You get into it and you taste it," said 17-year-old Guerrier, referring to new and different ways of cooking food.

"I was in a cooking program in junior high school and my teacher sent me to Park West High School. I liked it and continued with it. After college, I'll build upon becoming a professional chef."

In the process of opening their international headquarters in Harlem, the BCA hosted their sixth annual

black-be scholarship fund-raiser and cultural awareness event on Valentines Day at the Marriott Marquis in New York.

Paying homage to African Americans, who have made contributions to food service and hospitality, the BCA made award presentations and rewarded two students each with a \$1,500 scholarship.

Askwew said, 1.1 million African Americans and 1.9 million Latinos make-up the labor force in the industry but only a small percent make-up upper management. "You need managers that are trained and educated"—a void the BCA has set their sights on filling.

Child Dusted Pork Medallions:

- 6 Servings
- 1 1/2 small boneless pork loins or pork tenderloin medallions (1 1/2 to 2 lbs)
- 2 cups butter/milk
- 1/2 cup flour
- 2 tbsp. chili powder
- 2 tbsp. sugar
- 1/2 cup, fine chopped fresh parsley
- 2 tsp. salt
- 3/4 tsp. fine ground pepper
- 2 cups. Mashed oil, drained



Black Eyed Pea Relish and Sautéed Apples:

- 1 1/2 lbs. dry black-eyed peas (soaked in water to cover overnight)
- 1 lb. ham, sliced
- 1 med. onion, finely diced
- 3 cups, minced garlic
- 5 cups water
- 2 boneless chicken breasts, cubed
- 2 cups apple juice
- 1 1/4 cup cherry wine vinegar
- 1 1/2 tsp. crushed red pepper
- 6 red delicious apples, cut into 1/2 inch slices, divided
- 2 red bell peppers, sliced
- 2 green bell peppers, sliced
- 1/2 bunch scallions or green onions, thinly sliced
- 1 tbsp. finely chopped fresh parsley
- 2 tsp. salt or to taste
- 3 cups apple sauce, at room temperature

METHOD:

1. Place butter/milk in a large bowl and add pork. Cover and refrigerate 1 hour. Combine flour, chili powder, sugar, paprika, salt, and pepper in part 1, reserve.
2. In a 6 quart pot, cook boneless chicken breast, stirring frequently until crispy and brown. Add onion and garlic cook, stirring, 2 minutes longer.
3. Add drained black-eyed peas, water and bouillon cubes and heat to boiling. Reduce heat, cover and simmer until peas are tender, 30 to 45 minutes.
4. When peas are done, pour off and reserve cooking liquid, set peas aside. Return cooking liquid to pot and juice, vinegar, and crushed red pepper and heat to boiling. Reduce heat and boil lightly until liquid is reduced by half. Remove from heat. Stir in half the diced apples, the red green bell peppers, scallions, parsley, salt, and pepper. Stir in peas.
5. In large sauce pan heat 2 tbsp. of oil over medium-high heat. Add remaining diced apples and make until caramelized and tender; set aside.
6. Remove pork from butter/milk, pat dry. Coat meat with chili mixture. In large sauce pan, heat 2 tbsp. of oil over medium-high heat. Add pork, a few pieces at a time and sear until well browned on both sides. Repeat with remaining pork.
7. Spoon black-eyed pea relish onto warm plates, top with pork medallions. Serve apple sauce in small bowls and top with sautéed apples.



Black Culinarian Alliance members include Wayne Haney, Theodore Osorio, Ruby Dumes, Alex Askwew and Jacqueline Cholmondeley

the BCA, Jason Wallace. "We are creating awareness, exposure and education surrounding the African American influence in cuisine and professionals. They (black students) don't understand that there are career options because no one's ever explained it to them. They seem to have a negative connotation about cooking and servitude." Wallace feels this attitude is a direct result of slavery. However, understanding that food is a lucrative industry to be affiliated with, Wallace along with co-founder and vice president of the BCA,

Alex Askwew, are reaching back, opening doors and giving opportunities to those students who would like to follow in their footsteps.

Seven of those students hail from Park West High School in New York City: Lantasha Anderson, Wesley Chambers, Ernesto Guerrier, Cleon John, Rachel Lansang, Jose Perez and Leonards Williams. All of these future chefs worked alongside executive chefs from the BCA whose innovative recipes like sweet potato cheesecake and chili-dusted pan seared pork medallions

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Religion

CNN News B2

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RELIGION CALENDAR

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 21

NEWARK — Beluah Baptist Church will hold a *Willing Workers Annual Day* celebration beginning at 3:30 p.m. (973) 642-4817.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

KENILWORTH — A day of unity and friendship will be celebrated with the *Worldwide Church of God - Union at The David Brenar Schol*, 410 Monroe Ave. featuring guest speaker Stanley DeVaux beginning at 2 p.m. (908) 490-0031.

NEWARK — Unique Productions presents the 5th Annual Gospel Fest featuring *The Mighty Royal Travelers* and *The Gospel Extremes* at St. Luke's AME Church beginning at 3 p.m. (973) 622-0639.

SOUTH HACKENSACK — Lewis Fisher Productions presents the world famous *Duke Hummingbirds* along with *Preacher Pap* and the invisible singers of Newark at Mt. Zion Baptist

Buster Soaries joins Christian gathering

FORT LAUDERDALE—Dr. D. James Kennedy and Coral Ridge Ministries host the sixth annual Reclaiming America For Christ Conference, February 26-28, in Fort Lauderdale. The gathering offers training and motivation to help believers bring Christian perspective and influence to bear throughout American culture.

"Now is the time for Christians to

come to the aid of their country," said Dr. Kennedy, President of Coral Ridge Ministries and Senior Minister at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church. "The crisis in Washington, the national struggle at gross moral transgression on the part of our highest elected leader, the unconscionable and still legal practice of partial-birth abortion, and the advance of homosexual activism are all troubling

indicators of our nation's moral decline. The need for Christians to bring the salt and light of the Gospel in word and deed has never been greater. This conference exists to help them do that more intelligently and to greater effect."

Featured speakers at Reclaiming America For Christ '99 include Bill Bright, founder and President of Campus Crusade for Christ; Gary Bauer,

President of the Family Research Council; Larry Burkett, author, Christian financial counselor and President of *Christian Financial Concepts*; and Cal Thomas, one of the nation's most widely read syndicated columnists. Other speakers include Phillip Johnson, Berkeley law professor and author of *Defeating Darwinism*; Janet Parshall, Christian talk-show host; Dr. Buster

Soaries, pastor and advocate for at-risk youth; and John Paulk, Chairman of Exodus International, which assists men and women to overcome homosexuality. A total of 26 speakers will address topics to include the Y2K problem, the role of clergy in Christian social action, evangelism in public schools, grassroots involvement, and bioethics.

Living Consciously

By Junious Ricardo Stanton

Human beings have the capacity to think during all of our waking hours. However, the creator, in infinite wisdom, designed us so that we can function efficiently and economically without conscious focusing or concentration on our part. We do this by what we call habits and/or unconsciously mimicking the behavior of others.

Stop and think about the myriad

of habits you have and ask yourself if they are serving you or they serving them. Is your automatic response or behavior in a particular situation helpful or would you be better off doing something different? Ask yourself how mimicking the behavior of your parents or other role models has served you positively or how it has negatively impacted your life.

We need to periodically ask ourselves why we do the things we do. Most of us are not fully conscious of our actions. When we find ourselves in familiar situations we normally don't take the time to think extensively about what we are doing.

For instance, one morning I was on my way to work. As I pulled out of my driveway, I turned on the radio. I heard a traffic report say the highway I normally take was backed up bumper to bumper. I heard the report as sure as I wrote this. Nevertheless, the next thing I knew I was on the freeway ramp and could see the line of stalled automobiles ahead, but it was too late. I ended up stuck in

bumper to bumper traffic all because I didn't consciously think about taking an alternate route. I thoughtlessly went the same way despite hearing the report. This is just one example of how we repeat habitual behaviors, even when they are not in our best interest.

Addictions are habits. We smoke, over consume, overindulge or repeat the same self-sabotaging and destructive behaviors time and time again. The recovery community says, "usually it's doing the same thing over and over again with the same people expecting things to turn out differently." By that reckoning most of us are insane. Who among us hasn't repeated the same behaviors over and over again without realizing the direct relationship between our actions and our situation or our emotional state. Of course, not all habits are negative or destructive. And, patterning ourselves after someone we admire can be helpful.

What can we do about it? How do we change? The first thing we must

do is recognize that we are in an untenable situation, that we have habits and behavior patterns we need to change. We also need to realize we are not living in accordance with our true calling and purpose.

What areas in your life need changing? What must you do to be better, more focused, more energized and enthusiastic about life? What can you do to make your life more meaningful and fulfilling? Change is never automatic. Lasting change occurs

only through conscious deliberation, impelling emotion and volition coupled with appropriate actions. Psychologists say it takes 28 days of conscious effort to change a habit. However, most of us are conditioned not to think consciously on a regular basis.

The quality, tone and tenor of our lives depend upon how successful we are in controlling our thoughts and emotions. Self-mastery is the key to personal empowerment and actualization.

Baptists call for a day of reconciliation in Clinton case

Progressive National Baptist Convention, a nationwide organization of over 1,200 churches, called for a day of reconciliation and prayer for forgiveness for President, William J. Clinton, and the actions of the Congress and Senate on last month.

The prayer was not only for the President and the two legislative branches of government, but also for the pervasive sins of the whole nation. PNBC called for all religious bodies regardless of race to organize in bold prophetic protests against a modern day crucifixion event.

PNBC unanimously adopted an Official Resolution condemning the impeachment by the House of Representatives and the trial by the Senate, in support of the President and the nation. "Please know that as President of the [PNBC], I and over 2.5 million committed members are at your disposal to

assist in correcting what we believe is a blatant abuse and violation of the Constitution," proclaimed Dr. C. Mackey Daniels, Daniels and Ota Moss, chairman, Civil Rights Commission, collaborated in the effort to write the Resolution.

"To impeach a President because he is a sinner is to destroy the Constitution not uphold it," writes President Daniels. Daniels goes on to explain that, "We in PNBC, know the difference between high crimes and private sin."

Ota Moss had a different perspective from the voters point of view. "Tens of millions of voters should not have their elections overturned because less than 300 partisan politicians dislike the choice of the American people," wrote Moss.

PNBC said the righteous thing to do is to end the shameful investigation, and leave the children a legacy of love, humane legislation and leadership.

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DIRECTED BY
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This booklet is adapted from *Glory Days* by James Adams ©1998 McDonald's Corporation

did somebody say ?

Calendar

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

MONTGOMERY — The Carlier Foundation will hold a discussion on depression and schizophrenia at the foundation's amphitheater beginning at 12 p.m. (908) 281-1461.

ELIZABETH — Planned Parenthood and Union County Cancer Screening Program will offer cancer screening for Union County women 50 and over beginning at 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at 208 Commerce Place. (908) 351-5384.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

PLAINFIELD — The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at the South Plainfield Fire Scout Headquarters beginning at 2:30 p.m. (908) 756-6414.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22

SUMMIT — Adult Alcohol Abuse: The Impact on Children and Signs in Adolescents hosted by Charter Behavioral Health System on 19 Prospect St., Summit beginning at 7 p.m. (908) 277-9012.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

ISLEHURST — Saint Barnabas Health Care System is sponsoring a seminar on epilepsy at the Sheraton Woodbridge Palace Hotel beginning at 7 p.m. (973) 322-4300.

Jersey City — New Jersey City University will hold its annual "Spring Blood Drive" as well as a bone marrow screening beginning at 10 a.m. (201) 200-3426.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

GARWOOD — Women for Women of Union County will offer a yoga workshop at Nike's Yoga Center beginning at 7:30 p.m. (908) 232-5787.

CSH affiliates with Robert Wood Johnson Hospital

MOUNTAINIDE — Children's Specialized Hospital (CSH), the state's only hospital dedicated exclusively to pediatric rehabilitation, has become an affiliate member of the Robert Wood Johnson Health System. Other affiliate members include Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Hamilton.

CSH will also join the Robert Wood Johnson Health System, an organization of seven acute care hospitals, four federally-qualified health centers, the UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and providers of retirement healthcare and housing.

FDA approves first oral treatment for chronic Hepatitis B

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C. — Glaxo Wellcome Inc. announced today that the United States Food and Drug Administration has approved Epivir-HBV (lamivudine) Tablets and Oral Solution. This is the first oral, anti-viral medication for the treatment of adults with chronic hepatitis B associated with evidence of hepatitis B viral replication and active liver inflammation.

Hepatitis B is a potentially fatal liver disease and has been estimated by the World Health Organization to be the ninth most common cause of death worldwide. Approximately 350 million people, five percent of the world's population, have chronic infection with the hepatitis B virus (HBV) and about one-third of these individuals are at risk for serious progressive liver disease. In the United States, the Center for Disease Control has estimated that there are more than one million persons chronically infected with HBV, and it is estimated that only a small percentage of the patients with active disease have been treated.

Hepatitis B is an infectious disease that ranges from mild infection with no signs or symptoms to a more severe chronic liver disease, which can lead to severe liver scarring (cirrhosis), liver failure and liver cancer. Worldwide, more than one million people die annually from hepatitis B-associated liver disease.

Minorities are being ignored in cancer research

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee that sets the research budget for the National Cancer Institute (NCI) questioned the department's commitment to cancer research among ethnic minorities and the medically underserved and called upon leading cancer experts to help correct the current imbalance.

Prompted by the Institute of Medicine's release of its report "The Unequal Burden of Cancer," that concludes that ethnic minorities and poor people are underrepresented in research funded by NCI, the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services,

Education, and Related Agencies, heard testimony last month from several expert witnesses.

"With the population becoming increasingly diverse, it is critical that we learn why some ethnic minorities and the medically underserved are more prone to cancer and less likely to survive," said IOM Study Chair Alfred Haynes, M.D.

The cancer toll among ethnic minorities has been devastating. For example:

- African-American men are 15 percent more likely to develop cancer than white males;
- Rates of liver and stomach cancers

among Asian American are several times those of the white population;

- Native Americans have the poorest cancer survival rates of any group;
- Cervical cancer rates among Hispanic and Vietnamese American women are several times higher than national averages;
- Low-income white males living in Appalachia experienced higher rates of lung cancer than any ethnic minority group in the U.S. in 1992.

The NCI urged expeditious action by Congress and others, and pledged its immediate support to help tackle the challenges ahead.

"Everyone must recognize that the

changes called for in the IOM study will require a substantial investment of federal dollars and a significant retooling of NIH culture and priorities, but it's an investment we cannot afford to postpone," said Dr. Weinberg. He went on to explain that ethnic minorities are the fastest growing populations in our country today and will represent the majority in the next millennium. "Ignoring the disastrous trend in cancer burdens, among the ethnic minorities and medically underserved communities is myopic and injurious to our long-term and national domestic interests."

The ICC urges Congress and the Clinton Administration to use the IOM

report as a springboard to launch a more coordinated and focused national effort to address the disparate impact of cancer on ethnic minority and medically underserved populations.

"We cannot allow this study to be shelved," emphasized Dr. Weinberg. "If NCI takes this report seriously, we are confident agency culture will change and a refocused and expanded priority on cancer among ethnic minorities and the medically underserved will emerge."

The ICC is a private, multilateral and multidisciplinary council consisting of leaders from cancer and minority health organizations and survivors.

What is prostate cancer and how does it affect the body

By Marilyn Johnson Kondwani

Second only to skin cancer, prostate cancer is the most common cancer affecting American men. The American Cancer Society predicts that roughly 185,000 new cases were diagnosed during 1998 and about one out of every five American men will develop the disease during his lifetime.

African Americans must take extra precautions to prevent all types of cancer, since according to the National Cancer Institute, they are diagnosed with the disease and die from it more often than any other ethnic group. The leading causes of cancer deaths for Black American males are: Lung cancer, prostate cancer, and colorectal cancer. For Black females, lung, breast, and colorectal cancer top the list.

Between 1973 and 1992, the rate of prostate cancer in African American men increased at a rate of 126 percent, while the death rate increased 44 percent. Most common in North America and parts of Northwestern Europe, the incidence of prostate cancer is much lower in Asia, Africa, Central and South America.

Current statistics indicate that African American men are twice as likely to have prostate cancer as White men. The chances for all men to get the disease increases rapidly after age 50, with more than 80 percent of all cases being diagnosed in men over the age of 60.

Prostate cancer originates in the prostate, the walnut-sized male genital gland located in front of the rectum, behind the base of the penis and under the bladder. The main function of the prostate is to facilitate sexual reproduction by producing the semen in which sperm travel. Sperm is produced by the testes, which also makes the male hormone, testosterone. Once a man passes through his reproductive years, the prostate loses its function. Scientific research indicates that as long as the body produces testosterone prostate cancer will grow and spread.

Prostate cancer develops when a tumor grows inside the prostate gland. As the disease progresses the growing tumor puts pressure on organs nearby such as the urethra. The resulting enlargement of the prostate gland makes urinating more difficult and painful.

It is very important to have your doctor evaluate any difficulty you have with urinating because it is not uncommon for the prostate gland to enlarge as a man gets older. However, the condition is far more likely to be benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) which is not a cancer. However, the two conditions can exist at the same time.

The good news is that men who are diagnosed in the early stages of the disease and receive proper treatment

for cancer that has not spread beyond the prostate gland, have a 100 percent five-year survival rate. Most men live much longer and are able to enjoy a comfortable life.

What Can Men Do To Protect Their Health?

If you really want to stay healthy and live longer, you should eat a low-fat diet with at least five servings or more of fruits and vegetables each day, and avoid smoking. In addition, all men, aged 50 and over, must get regular cancer checkups. Men in high risk groups, such as those with an affected parent or siblings and African American males, would be wise to start screening at age 45.

If you are reluctant to take the exam or don't believe you could ever get cancer, consider the facts. The rate of prostate cancer is higher among African American males than any other group of men in the world!

Very often during the early stages of the disease there are no signs or symptoms. But, here are some of the warning signs:

- Weak or interrupted urine flow
- Difficulty urinating
- Blood in urine
- Frequent urination (especially at night)
- Painful or burning sensation
- Constant pain in lower back, pelvis, or upper thighs.

The three commonly used methods of screening to detect prostate cancer are as follows:

1. The Digital Rectal Exam: Because of the location of the prostate gland, it can easily be examined by a physician as part of the annual physical check-up. The doctor should be well-versed in recognizing abnormalities in size, shape, the formation of nodules or any other irregularities that might be a cancer forming in the gland. Although it may cause slight discomfort, the exam does not cause any damage or much pain.

2. The Prostate Specific Antigen Test (PSA): The name PSA refers to a protein in the blood that is released by the prostate. When the level of PSA in the blood is higher than normal, (4-10 ng/ml) this could be an indication of prostate cancer. The American Cancer Society recommends the PSA test on an annual basis for men aged 50 and older or age 45 for African American men, or those who have a father or brother with prostate cancer.

3. Ultrasound: This method uses sound waves to create a visual image of the prostate on a television screen. The test is used to show how large any tumor might be and to locate any tumors that cannot be felt.

Direct any question or comment to "It's About Your Health," 414 South Court Street, #206 Plainfield, NJ 07051.

National project launched for African American Breast Cancer Research

DALLAS—While researchers have made great strides in the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer, and a growing number of women are surviving the disease, African American continue to have the highest breast cancer mortality rates of any ethnic group.

This Monday, the nation celebrates National Black History Month, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation launches a landmark effort to create a national standard for African American breast health education, the African American Women's Initiative

African Americans continue to have the highest breast cancer mortality rates of any ethnic group.

"In the African American community, breast cancer is a disease that is often viewed as a silent death sentence," said Harold P. Freeman, M.D., director of the Department of Surgery at Harlem Hospital Center, New York, and former president of the American Cancer Society. "Death, not treatment options and survival chances, is often the most overriding thought, even though early detection is helping more and more

women win the battle against breast cancer."

Reducing high breast-cancer mortality rates among African American women is the goal of the AAWI. "We have long recognized the need to address this important issue," said Nancy Brinker, founding chairman of the Komen Foundation, one of the most progressive grassroots organizations fighting breast cancer today.

African Americans Making a Difference

The AAWI is represented by a national advisory committee made up of experts and thought leaders from the African American community. The top priority of the AAWI is to identify breast health education and outreach programs that are making an impact on the African American community and can be replicated nationwide.

"The key to success is to design pro-

grams that reflect the needs of African American women and effectively communicate the life-saving message of early detection," said Brinker. "But we do not necessarily have to start from scratch, there are Komen-funded programs out there that are successfully accomplishing this goal."

These programs include the Witness Projects, a national program that enlists African American breast cancer survivors to share their stories with other African American women where they feel most at ease with themselves, their local church. Another innovative program, the East-West Breast Express, educates women at public transportation sites in Atlanta and Oakland, Calif. The Patient Navigator Program at Harlem Hospital Center in New York matches women up with patient advocates who navigate them through diagnosis to treatment and beyond.

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African American Breast Cancer Survivors

The Cancer Institute of New Jersey sponsors free monthly breast cancer screening. We are seeking African American breast cancer survivors to teach other African American women ways to detect breast cancer at early stages.

The program is offered on the second Tuesday of each month at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and Medical School in New Brunswick.

Volunteers receive free training and \$15 per session. Please call Tiffany Kunz at (732) 235-6048 for more information.



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CITY NEWS B4

Billboard

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

MADISON — The Playwrights Theater of New Jersey plays *The Quarell* beginning at 8 p.m. (973) 514-1787.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

NEW BRUNSWICK — The State Theater and Trawick Artists presents a celebration of song and dance in *Joyce Irish Cabaret* beginning at 8 p.m. (732) 246-7469.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

NEWARK — The New Jersey Historical Society presents a celebration of African American heritage including a viewing of the Paul Robeson exhibition beginning at 12 p.m. (973) 482-2988.

METUCHEN — The Forum Theater Company presents the musical *Off the Hook*. Call (732) 548-4070 for time.

NEWARK — The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra presents violinist Miho Saegusa. Call 1-800-Allegro for time and location.

NEWARK — The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) presents the play *Things Fall Apart* beginning at 7:30 p.m. 1-888-GO-NJAPAC.

UNION — The Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs presents the play *Things Fall Apart* at Kean University's Wilkins Theater beginning at 8 p.m. (908) 527-2337.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

MAPLEWOOD — Mostly Music presents violinist Ani Kavalian and cello player Carter Erey at Morrow Memorial Methodist Church beginning at 3:30 p.m. (973) 762-8486.

BROOKLYN — The Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) presents the play *Blue Heart* at BAM Majestic Theater beginning at 3 p.m. (718) 636-4100.

NEW BRUNSWICK — The Rutgers Arts Center presents a young's people concert featuring conductor Richard Audon Clark at the State Theater beginning at 3 p.m. (732) 932-7511.

NEW YORK — The Museum of Modern Art presents its annual film festival with the presentation of the highly acclaimed movie *Once Upon a Time in America* beginning at 4 p.m. (212) 708-6889.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

NEW YORK — Manny's Car Wash presents The Chesterfields Blues Band beginning at 9 p.m. (512) 288-411X.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

ELIZABETH — The Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs presents the film *The Joe Louis Story* at the Elizabeth Public Library beginning at 10 a.m. (908) 354-6060.

NEW BRUNSWICK — The State Theater presents the international *Tango Buenos Aires* beginning at 8 p.m. (732) 246-7469.

PAUL ROBESON: An American legend

He was the ultimate 20th century Renaissance man: exceptional athlete, actor, singer, linguist, cultural scholar, author, political activist. His talent marked him as an idol to be revered for generations. Yet the political beliefs of this African American turned him into a perceived threat, and he was all but erased from American history.

Today, Paul Robeson is back in the spotlight on the world stage. In 1998, the 100th anniversary of his birth prompted film retrospectives, biographies, and international events and exhibitions. But a definitive biographical film portrait—one that spans from the political to the intensely personal—did not exist.

Thirteen WNET's biography series delves deeper into his extraordinary life in *American Masters' Paul Robeson: Here I Stand*. Premiering Wednesday, February 24, 1999 at 9 p.m. on PBS (check local listings), this two-hour original production includes exclusive interviews with friends and family, use of personal papers, letters, private films, confidential political documents, medical records, and his wife's poignant diaries—all of which have never before been seen by the public.

As the son of a man who escaped slavery and became a respected minister, Robeson's ties to the black community were deeply important to him. He sang

in churches throughout the country and raised money for black causes. To help unjustly convicted African Americans pay for legal fees, he gave time and leadership to the Civil Rights Congress. And

inhumanity in his country.

At the height of his popularity, Robeson was a national symbol and a culture-



Paul Robeson is the subject on *American Masters* airing this month on PBS.

he co-wrote his autobiography, *Here I Stand*, to celebrate African American courage, spirit and intelligence while denouncing the pervasive racism and

al leader in the war against fascism abroad and racism at home. He retired to Philadelphia and lived in self-imposed seclusion with his sister until his death.

'Go Tell It on the Mountain,' 'Six Degrees' featured on AHN

In salute to Black History Month, The African Heritage Network will present two critically acclaimed movies featuring legendary actor Paul Winfield and Hollywood's hottest star Will Smith. First Paul Winfield (right) stars in the adaptation of James Baldwin's novel about a family going through life's ups and downs in "Go Tell It On The Mountain." Below Will Smith stars as a con artist posing as the son of Sidney Poitier, who infiltrates high-society and reveals some unbecoming stories about the upper class in "Six Degrees of Separation." The African Heritage Network, hosted by Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, presents films every month that looks at the achievement of black actors and actresses in film.



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"Something's Wrong With Your Scale"

NEW YORK — Van Whitfield's 1998 debut novel, *Something's Wrong With Your Scale!*, a romantic comedy about life's unending search for love, comfort, and the perfect peanut butter cheesecake...

In this anxiously awaited second novel, Whitfield introduces Sonny Walker, a thirtyish Mr. Nice Guy who has found himself on the wrong side of the battle of the bulge. Though first attracted to girlfriend Marsha's beauty, petite figure, and sassy style, it was her fabulous cooking that kept him coming back for more. And more. And more. Twelve months and fifty pounds later, Sonny was happy and well fed, and Marsha was just fed up with (the jumbo-sized) Sonny.

Yet even in the middle of Marsha's break-up speech, Sonny can't seem to get his mind off of the glorious dessert on the counter behind her. In full and utter denial, Sonny packs on another twenty-five pounds before lumbering into the FuturaSystem Weight Loss Center in a desperate attempt to lose the gut and reunite with Marsha. But in the process, who would have guessed he'd find new love, self-respect, and a brand-new perspective on what's important in life?

Wise and witty, *Something's Wrong With Your Scale!* introduces a vivid cast of characters, including big, beautiful Kayla, who understands passion and uses it "like a chaps-wearing, tobacco-spewing cowboy uses rope." Savvy, sensitive, and successful, she's the only woman Sonny's ever known who can match him at pool and at the



Author Van Whitfield

buffet table. Her gentle smile and earthy humor cause a monumental shift in Sonny's world. It was the first time in a long, long time that I felt like a regular person. And not just a regular person with an embarrassing weight problem, but a regular person with plain old regular problems. Kayla was able to do what no one had done since Marsha. She made me feel like a man.

Between Sonny's hilarious weight-loss adventures and his slow but steady personal evolution, *Something's Wrong With Your Scale!* probes universal themes of love and longing with Whitfield's characteristic comedic flair. The result is a fresh, funny tale that echoes Sonny's description of being with Kayla: "Better than a Wendy's triple-cheese with ketchup, mustard, pickles, onions and an order of biggie fries topped off with a Frosty (large, of course)."



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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the Housing Authority of the City of New Brunswick for a **GENERAL PEST CONTROL TREATMENT CONTRACT** for the buildings of Robeson Village and Schwartz Homes (N.J. 22-143), funded from the Operating Budget FY99-00-001.

Bids for the above will be received by the Housing Authority at its office located at 18 Van Dyke Avenue, New Brunswick, New Jersey at 11:00 a.m. prevailing time, February 19, 1999 and will immediately be opened and read aloud.

The Instructions to Bidders, Bid Form, General Conditions, Supplementary Conditions, Specifications, and other Contract Documents will be on file during the business day, at the Housing Authority Office located at 18 Van Dyke Avenue, New Brunswick, New Jersey Copies thereof may be obtained upon paying a non-refundable deposit of Twenty Five Dollars (\$25.00) for each complete set. Deposit checks shall be made payable to the Housing Authority of the City of New Brunswick.

A **PRE BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1999, AT 11:00 a.m. PREVIEWING TIME IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM, SCHWARTZ HOMES, 18 VAN DYKE AVENUE, NEW BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY.**

All required bids, certifications and other forms required to be submitted by bidders are to be prepared on the proposal forms found in the booklet, submitted in triplicate, and to the following amount:

Amount of Bid	Bid Security Amount
Up to \$200,000.00	10% of Bid
\$200,000.00 up to \$400,000.00	\$20,000.00
Over \$400,000.00	5% of Bid

All bonds used to satisfy the bid security requirements must be issued by surety firms licensed to issue such bonds in the State of New Jersey and be listed in the U.S. Treasury Circular No. 270 (T-Letter Surety) and regardless of the method the bidder proposes to use for the bid, the bidder must also submit a bid security with the Bid a Contract of Surety written by a T-Listed Surety Agency in the U.S. Treasury Circular #270 as a minimum. Bids which do not satisfy the foregoing requirements that the surety company be listed as approved as surety.

The Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any irregularities in the bids received and to accept any bid which is deemed to be in the best interest of the Authority. The Authority may also award one or more contracts to one or more bidders.

Bids will remain in force for a period of sixty (60) days after the date of the opening thereof.

By Order of:
Kevin Curcio
Executive Director
Housing Authority of the City of New Brunswick

REQUIRED FORMS:

THE FOLLOWING FORMS MUST BE INCLUDED WITH THE BID DOCUMENTS:

HUB-508(a) - REPRESENTATION, CERTIFICATION & OTHER STATEMENTS OF BIDDERS

BID FOR GENERAL PEST CONTROL TREATMENT CONTRACT

BID BOND

FOURTH CONSENT OF SURETY

QUALIFICATIONS QUESTIONNAIRE

BIDDERS STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AFFIDAVIT

AFFIDAVIT OF NON-COLLUSION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

AUDIT SERVICES

The Ashbury Park Housing Authority of the City of Ashbury Park, New Jersey (the "PHAT"), is requesting proposals from qualified firms to conduct an audit of its financial books and records for the twelve (12) month period ending March 31, 1999. The audit will be conducted according to the requirements of the Single Audit Act of 1984, OMB Circular A-133 and other requirements as may be promulgated by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development or the State of New Jersey.

Proposals must be made on the proposal format available at the PHAT, interested parties can obtain a proposal format by calling (732) 726-9913.

Proposals should be received in an original and seven copies, not later than 10 a.m., February 27, 1999, at the following address and clearly marked "Auditor Search."

Ashbury Park Housing Authority
1000 1/2 Third Ave.
Ashbury Park, NJ 07712
Attention: "Auditor Search"

NEW JERSEY HIGHWAY AUTHORITY

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WOMAN-OWNED BUSINESS

SET-ASIDE PROCUREMENT

ENVELOPES

ON MARCH 8, 1999 AT 3:00PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Sealed Bids will be received by the New Jersey Highway Authority for the above requirement from vendors qualifying as New Jersey Women-Owned Businesses pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 1053, Chapter 482, N.J.S.A. 12:32-17 et. seq. Only those businesses which meet the requirements and are qualified by the Department of Commerce and Economic Development may submit bid proposals. Bids for the above will be received in the Division of Central Purchasing on the day(s) (and time(s) specified above and will be opened immediately thereafter.

Bid Forms, Specifications, and Terms & Conditions are on file in the Division of Central Purchasing, New Jersey Highway Authority, Garden State Parkway, Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095 and may be obtained between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. weekdays.

Angela Corio
Director of Central Purchasing
NEW JERSEY HIGHWAY AUTHORITY
\$72.23

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

The Township of Montclair seeks Qualification Statements from Architectural firms experienced in the design and construction of the stations. Montclair Township is planning to construct a four-story fire station which also serves as the Department's Headquarters. Minimum qualifications include the following:

1. Architect should have qualifications for public work by the N.J. Department of Building Construction for work of at least \$3,000,000 in scope.
 2. Minimum professional liability insurance for architect to be \$50,000 per claim and \$1,000,000 aggregate.
 3. Firm must have experience with design and construction of at least one recent fire station of similar size. Firm must also have experience with at least three municipal projects, preferably involving emergency vehicles.
- The project will consist of the following phases: Design, working drawings, bidding process assistance, construction observations.
- Submit qualifications, resumes of team members, examples of experience with similar projects, references and general fee schedule by February 28, 1999 to Karen Kadus, PPA/C/P Planning Director, Township of Montclair, 206 Claremont Avenue, Montclair, NJ 07042.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

The Township of Montclair is seeking an architect to prepare facade designs of a proposed multi-level parking deck at The Crescent municipal parking lot which will also be accommodate 400+ spaces. The deck may also include first floor retail space. The architect will work with the Township's parking consultant who is performing a preliminary design and feasibility analysis. Scope of work includes attendance at design charrettes, preparation of alternative design schemes and presentations to public bodies. Send qualifications of the firm, resumes of project team members, general fee schedule, and description of any parking deck design experience to: Karen A. Kadus, PPA/C/P Planning Director, Township of Montclair, 206 Claremont Avenue, Montclair, NJ 07042 by March 5, 1999.

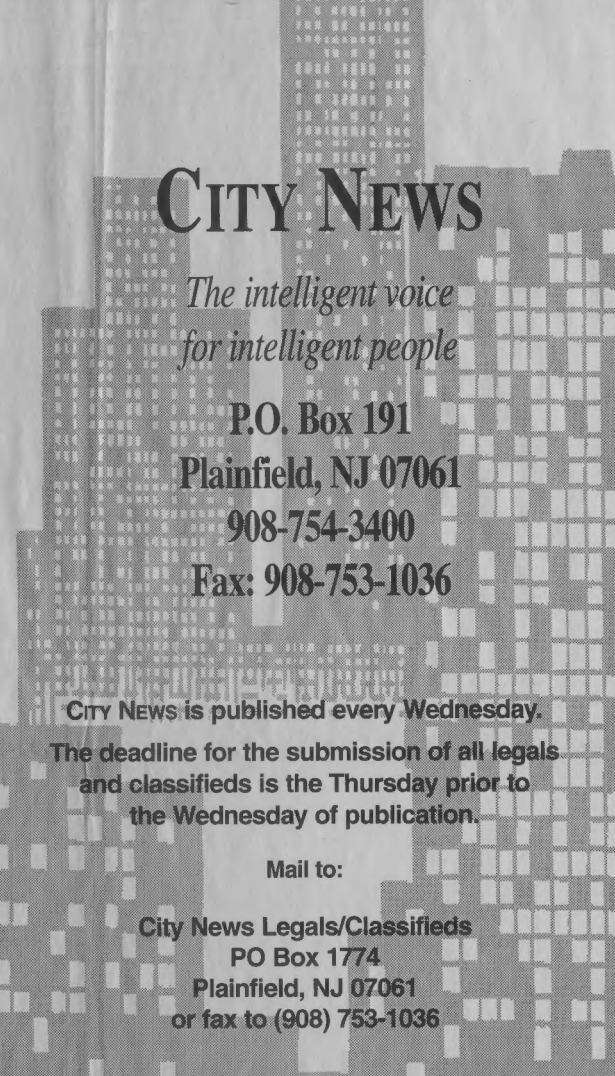
\$36.00

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CLASSIFIEDS


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<p>BANKING</p> <p>SUMMIT BANK</p> <p>Member of the Summit Bancorp (908) 738-9999 www.summitbank.com</p> <p>Please call our "Voice Box" system 24 hrs., 7 days/week, and use Box #4400 for the positions listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Retail Banking Officer Chattahoochee, Marietta, Marietta, Marietta• Warehouse Clerks Plant Department 1st & 2nd Shifts Fair Lawn <p>When you join the Summit family, you will receive an attractive salary, a comprehensive benefits package and more than enough room for substantial growth. Please visit our website at: www.summitbank.com. EOE M/F/D/V</p> <p>"Voice Box" is a registered trademark of VOICE BOX SYSTEMS, Inc.</p>	<p>Graphics</p> <p>Forms Designer</p> <p>Summit Bank, a leading financial institution, is currently recruiting for a Print-Offset Press Designer to work out of our Fair Lawn, NJ location. This is a flexible 25 hour/week position with hours from 9am-3pm. The chosen individual will be responsible for operating desktop publishing equipment (Pagemaker and Jet Form) with printer to meet user requirements. You will also be responsible for utilizing drafting techniques to create mechanicals and paste-ups and PC graphic design programs. Ideal candidate will possess a high school diploma and a minimum of 3 years of form design or typesetting experience.</p> <p>For immediate consideration, please forward your resume to: Summit Bank, Human Resources, Dept. CT702, 214 Main Street, Hackensack, NJ 07601. Fax: 201-946-0008. Only candidates whose backgrounds best qualify for this position will be contacted. Summit Bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer/M/F/D/V.</p>	<p>Printer/Offset Press</p> <p>Summit Bank, a leading financial institution, is currently recruiting for a Print-Offset Press Designer to work out of our Fair Lawn, NJ location. This position is a 2nd shift position with hours from 3pm - 11:30pm. The successful candidate will set up and operate an automatic lead, small flat sheet offset press. The individual will also be responsible for operating a Xerox Docutouch and a reproduction camera. The ideal candidate must have a high school diploma and a minimum of 2 years printing experience.</p> <p>For immediate consideration, please fax your resume to: Summit Bank, Human Resources at 201-946-0008. Only candidates whose backgrounds best qualify for this position will be contacted. Summit Bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer/M/F/D/V.</p> <p>SUMMIT BANK</p> <p>ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS</p> <p>The United States Golf Association has a position available. Ideal candidates must be detail oriented, organized and possess a professional manner.</p> <p>Varied duties will include project work as well as general and secretarial responsibilities.</p> <p>Knowledge of Windows 95, Microsoft Word 95, and Word 97 and Microsoft Office Suite. Please forward resume and salary history to:</p> <p>THE UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION</p> <p>Personnel Dept. I/A P.O. Box 708 FAR HILLS, NJ 07931-0708 FAX: 908-781-1735 EOE</p>	<p>COMPUTER</p> <p>CUSTOMER LIAISON/TECHNICAL SUPPORT</p> <p>BRANCHBURG LOCATION</p> <p>The United States Golf Association seeks a team player who enjoys assisting customers over the phone. Hours are Monday-Friday, 11:00am to 7:30pm. Individual will troubleshoot and provide technical support with DOS & Windows Operating Systems. Knowledge of a wide variety of PC hardware, software, communication skills, and a pleasant professional phone manner required. Knowledge of golf a plus. Send resume which must include salary history or requirements to:</p> <p>USGA Personnel-GHN P.O. Box 708 Far Hills, NJ 07931-0708 Fax: 908-781-1735 Equal Opportunity Employer</p>	<p>PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD HERE CALL 908-754-3400 OR FAX TO 908-753-1036</p>



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For more information contact Yomi Akinode, Program Manager,
1095 Morris Avenue, Union, NJ 07083, 908-629-3435.

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